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1. Introduction

With the exception of new ferment at the Autonomous University (UASD) in the aftermath of last week's student elections, the period was largely devoid of meaningful political activity or developments. The dispute between FUSD and the alliance of FRAGUA and the Flavio Suero student group (MPD) on the outcome of the student elections is another indication of the extreme politicization of the UASD, and of the factionalism existing among the groups of the left and extreme left. Developments in the coming weeks are likely to continue to center around the UASD including its continuing budgetary problems. Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Meyer's two-day visit to Santo Domingo was an outstanding success. Mr. Meyer's activities and press conference received prominent and extensive treatment in the press and other media (SD A-270 and WPR #39). (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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Page 22. UASD Student Elections Still Not Decided

The various student groups and university authorities have not been able to resolve the impasse which developed at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) when two rival student groups both claimed a victory after the October 7 student elections (see WPR #39). The Consejo Universitario decided early in the week that if the student groups were not able to agree on a solution by October 19, the elections would be declared null and void and new ones held on November 24.

Despite the fact that the Frente Universitario Socialista Democrático (FUSD), the PRD's university arm, has so far rejected all suggestions for a compromise, has withdrawn all its delegates from the University's co-government bodies and turned the offices of the Dominican Students Federation (FED) back to the University, an agreement may still be possible since neither FUSD nor the so-called "iron alliance" of FRAGUA (Red Line of the MR-1J4) and the Flavio Suero Student Front (FEFLAS), affiliated with the MPD, seems to want to submit to completely new elections.

Neither the electoral commission nor the Consejo has declared a winner. The commission's report to the Consejo declared that "legally" FUSD won with a 9-vote margin over FRAGUA-FEFLAS but that "morally" the victory should belong to the latter. At issue are 23 ballots cast for both FRAGUA and FEFLAS (the two groups ran the same candidates on separate ballots) which were declared invalid. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It does not make much difference which group won as far as representation on the University's co-government bodies is concerned as that is decided on the basis of proportional representation. However, according to the FED statutes, the student group winning the elections by a simple majority is awarded 6 of the 11 seats on the FED Executive Committee, including the influential post of Secretary General. It is control of FED, which traditionally speaks in the name of all Dominican students, which both groups want. The stakes are high enough for the student groups' parent bodies so that a compromise solution acceptable to both sides will not be easy to find. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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3. "Rafa" Gamundi Expelled from PRD

PRD Subsecretary General Rafael "Rafa" GAMUNDI Cordero was expelled by the party this week after a 10-hour hearing before the disciplinary tribunal. He was accused by the Juventud Revolucionaria Dominicana (JRD) of violating the party statutes and of deviating from the party's official line. Gamundi denied all of the charges and claimed later that he was unjustly expelled. He said he would remain a "friend and admirer" of PRD President Juan Bosch but left no doubt that he held Bosch responsible for his expulsion. He announced that all of those who have been expelled from the PRD (see WPR #33 and previous) would form a new "revolutionary movement" whose program would be based on agreements reached at the PRD's sixth national convention held early this year.

It was also announced this week that Jottin CURY, a former president of the PRD political committee and an ex-Deputy, will face disciplinary action for "publicly criticizing the PRD and its leaders." The PRD National District Committee, which brought the charges against Cury, has also asked that ex-Deputy Tancredo DULUC (who was recently named GODR Ambassador to Ecuador) be expelled from the party. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Gamundi, the party's leading "radical," at least until recently has had the support of much of the party's youth. He has long been at odds with other PRD leaders, however, and has publicly criticized Bosch on various occasions. Jottin Cury, also considered a PRD "radical" with close ties to (if not secret membership in) the PCD, has also been a frequent critic of PRD policy. So far Bosch has not criticized the PCD which has continued to praise him and his "Dictatorship with Popular Support" thesis. If Cury is also expelled, however, it may mean that Bosch is prepared to go further than we thought to give the PRD a new image of a nationalist and leftist but non-Communist party. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. President Says Haitian Border Must Remain Closed

In response to a question at his weekly meeting with the press on October 14, President Balaguer claimed that the border with Haiti could not be opened because the result would be "massive contraband" which would ruin Dominican business along the frontier. He asserted that the border was closed following a request from business interests along the border. Balaguer

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explained that goods are much less expensive in Haiti and that opening the border would be a blow to the country's balance of payments. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Balaguer's assessment appears accurate. According to Embassy reports, the border with Haiti was closed in 1967 primarily to prevent increased contraband. Allegations that subversive elements had tried to cross the frontier in order to disturb the peace in both countries was also offered as public justification. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. New Legislative Proposals

A. The Chamber of Deputies this week approved (with a minor one-word amendment) legislation already passed by the Senate which would create a Social Promotion Fund through which new taxes and other monies destined to finance the government's ambitious "Program for Social Improvement" (see WPR #29 and WPR #37) will be channeled. Other bills, including three new tax measures, relating to the program are still pending before Congress. (UNCLASSIFIED)

B. Also this week President Balaguer sent two other bills to Congress. One would create a new Dominican Port Authority which would gradually assume the responsibility over ports now exercised by the Division of Ports and Customs. The other would impose a one percent deduction from the salaries of all civilian government employees as a mandatory contribution to the civilian pension fund. (UNCLASSIFIED)

C. The Senate this week approved without change the first 10 articles of the controversial bill to establish a nationwide electoral register which would be used for the first time in the general elections scheduled for 1974. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Book Fair Widely Acclaimed

Despite many initial problems, the "First World Book Exposition" opened in Santo Domingo this week with the participation of about 25 countries; the Vatican and several international organizations. It has been widely acclaimed by President Balaguer, the press, and almost everyone else who has visited it. A suggestion that the exposition be "institutionalized" and held each year in a Latin American country has

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received general support from several quarters. Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico have asked to host next year's exposition. It has also been proposed that future expositions be placed under the auspices of UNESCO. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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